



Friends,

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, businesses and communities in Joplin, Missouri, Minneapolis, Minnesota and in the other areas affected by the severe tornadoes that swept through the area Sunday evening. Since the storms struck, we have been in close contact and coordination with state and local officials in Missouri, Minnesota, and Kansas, where severe tornadoes struck the town of Reading on Saturday night. In fact, in Joplin we have seen the devastation and reports of buildings flattened. Just some of the restaurants and businesses damaged we have heard reported include Walgreens, Wal-mart, Backyard Burger, Home Depot, Long John Silvers, Academy, Macadoodles, Sonic, Burger King, Wireless Connections, AT&T, and IHop. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of them as well.

While there has not yet been a request for federal assistance, FEMA will continue to stay in close contact with state and local officials as the recovery from this storm gets underway. We stand ready to assist Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas and other impacted states if support is needed. At all times, FEMA maintains commodities, including millions of liters of water, millions of meals and hundreds of thousands of blankets, strategically located at eight distribution centers throughout the United States.

It's important to follow the instructions of state and local officials, and listen to local radio or TV stations for updated emergency information. We urge all individuals to listen to NOAA Weather Radio and their local news to monitor for updates and directions provided by their local officials. If you haven't already, now is the time to get prepared for tornadoes and other disasters. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/tornadoes> to learn more.

Thank you, and be safe.